

DreamCastle Quilts



BETTY DIETZ
QUILTMAKER

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EASY HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES

The simplest way to make half-square triangles is to make two at a time. This method eliminates pulling and stretching the bias. And the math is not too bad if you just remember $7/8$.

All you need to do is add $7/8$ " to the finished size-in-the-quilt of the half-square triangle that you are trying to create. SO, if you need a 3" finished half-square triangle, you will need to cut two squares of $3\ 7/8$ ".

So, how many squares to cut? First, determine the number of Half-Square triangles that you need of a specific color combination in your quilt design. Now, divide that number in half, since this method is so easy you get two units out of each set of squares! This number is the number of squares that you need to cut from each of your two fabrics.

On the wrong side all of your lighter colored squares, use a ruler and a thin-line pencil to draw a line that runs from corner to corner across the diagonal. Layer your light and dark fabrics, right sides together with the lighter fabric on top so you can see your pencil line. Stitch a seam line that is $1/4$ " away from BOTH sides of your drawn line. (IF you do not have an accurate $1/4$ " foot for you machine, you will have to draw in these stitching lines using a ruler and pencil). Cut the square in half along the drawn line and press the seams towards the darker fabric. The units will have little extra "dog ears" which need to be trimmed away so that the darker fabric will not produce a shadow effect in your quilt.

